

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTIO, TO
SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON PROPOSED TOGOLESE FERTILIZER PLANT

1. GO'S PLANS TO BUILD A PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER PLANT CONTINUE TO BE STYMIED. AT VARIOUS TIMES TOGO HAD APPROACHED THE U.S., BELGIUM, FRANCE AND POLAND FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. IT APPEARED THAT THE CONTRACT WOULD GO TO THE FRENCH UNTIL THEY PRICED THEMSELVES OUT OF RANGE. THE POLES, WHO HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY BOTH THE BELGIANS AND THE FRENCH FOR A PLANT COMPONENT, THEN TRIED TO SELL DIRECT TO TGO. HOWEVER, SINCE THEY COULD NOT PROVIDE A COMPLETE PLANT, THAT DEAL TOO HAS FALLEN THROUGH. WHEN LAST HEARD OF, THE TOGOLESE WERE AGAIN APPROACHING U.S. FIRM AGRICO SWIFT AND THE FRENCH HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ASKED TO SCALE DOWN THE PRICE OF THIS PROPOSED PLANT.

2. THE TOGOLESE APPEAR DETERMINED TO CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A FERTILIZER PLANT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT PHOSPHATE ROCK MINING ACTIVITY. INTERESTED U.S. FIRMS MAY WISH TO EXPLORE THIS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY. PALMER

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